



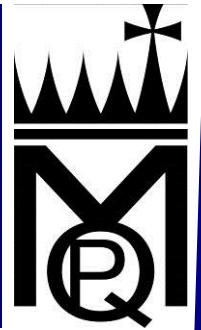
Together Toward Tomorrow Campaign Newsletter

Mary Queen of Peace Parish (MQPP)

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www.maryqueenofpeacebillings.org

Vol. 2:2



Parish Begins One Campaign with Two Appeals: Annual Appeal & Capital Appeal

Campaign Commitment Weekend is May 20-21. Parishioners will be asked to make a twelve-month commitment to our **Annual Appeal** to fund our current parish budget, which supports our parish ministries and programs. On Commitment Weekend, parishioners will also be invited to make a three-year commitment to support our **Capital Appeal**, which funds our vision to build a "new church" on South 27th.

MQPP has not conducted an Annual Appeal for several years. The **Annual Appeal** provides the parish at-large and individual parishioners an opportunity to reflect on the ways God has blessed us over the year. It provides us the opportunity to respond to God's call to share our blessings of time, talent, and treasure to build God's Kingdom. Results of the appeal provide the parish leadership information to create a more accurate budget for the up-coming fiscal year.

The **Capital Appeal** is designed to raise money over three years to fund our "new church." Parishioners will be asked to identify their level of contributions to the appeal on our Commitment Weekend and they can choose to contribute monthly, quarterly, annually, or with a one-time gift.

Pastor's Letter

As pastor, I sit in a privileged place to see God's hand at work, moving us closer to our vision of a new church on South 27th. God is working among us. We are set to close on the sale of Holy Rosary and we have an offer on Guadalupe. In the last few weeks, we received a \$10,000 gift from a non-parishioner. Over 30 parishioners volunteered to share their time and talent with this campaign. Our campaign meetings have been energy-filled and are the setting of a positive tone for the campaign.

St. Teresa of Avila reminds us, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now." We are the bodies that Christ uses to build God's Kingdom here on earth. Without our willingness to share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we will be limiting what God wants to do through us. If you are not yet involved with this campaign, I encourage you to consider sitting on one of the six different teams. No prior experience or skills are necessary. Call the parish office to get involved.

This campaign is too important to sit on the sideline. I strongly encourage you to participate in the campaign by sharing your time and by making financial commitments. Take the time to review the information in this newsletter. There is a lot of great information to help you discern what it is God wants you to do through this campaign.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with MQPP as we continue to provide the much-needed programs and ministries for our parishioners and the broader community.

In Christ,

Fr. Jose Marquez



Campaign Prayer

*Loving Father, we the people of Mary Queen of Peace Parish thank You for the blessings bestowed on us. All that we are and all that we have, you have given us. God of the past, present and future, help us open our hearts and minds to your Holy Spirit. We ask for the grace to act as one, for the good of all. St Joseph the Carpenter, help us build a stronger faith community, as we work toward our new home. Intercede for us in our desire to become a vibrant parish family. Mary Queen of Peace, protect us from all evil and lead us to do God's will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVES PRAYER, GOALS & LOGO

On March 18th over 20 members on the Campaign Steering Committee met for the first of two meetings to direct the campaign and to ensure that it reflects the needs and culture of our parish. After much discernment, the Committee made the following decisions.

The **Spiritual Formation Team** composed and recommended a campaign prayer that will guide us through this campaign. The Steering Committee approved the prayer with minor edits and thanked the team for their work. (*See prayer insert on page one*) The prayer will be recited at Masses and during church meetings. Families are encouraged to recite the prayer in their homes. Keeping prayer at the center of this campaign will help us make this a spiritual effort as well as a financial one.

The Steering Committee set the goals for both campaigns. Our **Annual Appeal goal is to have 100% of parishioners return their commitment card.** The **Capital Appeal goal is \$275,000.** The recent Feasibility Study indicated that our church has a good chance of raising this dollar amount with a quality campaign based in prayer, large member engagement, and good information provided to our parishioners.

The **Public Relations Team** recommended a campaign logo which was approved with minor changes by the Steering Committee. The logo appears in the newsletter masthead and will accompany all campaign communications. The PR team did an excellent job in leading this effort.

The goal of our Annual Appeal is to have 100% of parishioners return their commitment card. The goal for the Capital Appeal is set at \$275,000.

Update on Construction Plans

We are currently preparing the site on South 27th with sidewalks, utilities, and sewer lines. (*See page three for an update*). Phase I is the construction of the parking lot and the new church, which includes a foyer and restrooms. Phase II includes a fellowship hall, classrooms, offices, and a café. The total cost of the entire project is \$4.5 million.



Phase I will cost \$3.1 million. We currently have about \$500,000 in our campaign funds. We are close to selling the Holy Rosary Church complex for \$1.25 million. There is a bid on Our Lady Guadalupe (OLG) that we anticipate to be no less than \$300,000. To complete Phase I—and after we sell HR and OLG—we will need to raise an additional \$1,050,000.

Once the “new church” is completed, we will then sell the Little Flower Church. Staffers Matt Low and Celest Kessler will continue to pursue outside grants and other stewardship gifts. To date, the parish has acquired over \$325,000 in outside money.



MQPP is conducting a Time & Talent Drive in early fall, inviting members to share their gifts of time and talent with the parish. Sharing of time and talent are central to who we are as Catholics.

Campaign Q&A

Q: When will we be asked to make a commitment to the campaign?

Campaign packets will be mailed to every home in early May. The packets will include information about the two appeals and will include a commitment card. Parishioners are asked to turn in their cards on or before Commitment Weekend, May 20-21.

*Our Together Toward Tomorrow
Campaign Commitment Weekend*

Q: Can I change my commitment?

Yes. We recognize that people's situations change and you may want to adjust your level of commitment. Call Celest in the parish office at any time to make the change.

Q: Can I just make a commitment to the Annual Appeal?

We are not asking everyone to commit the same amount of money, but we are asking everyone to make the same level of sacrifice to support both Appeals. If you prefer to only support the Annual Appeal, then we ask that you consider increasing your commitment to the Annual Appeal equivalent to what others are increasing their contributions to the church to help build the new church. In this way, everyone is making the same sacrifice for our faith community.

Q: How is the parish doing financially?

The parish continues to struggle financially. This is partly due to our present operating conditions. We are heating, maintaining, and insuring our three church properties. The current fiscal year (2016-17) reflects some cuts and we will most likely end up with a \$69,000 deficit, which will be covered with parish savings. One of the main reasons we are conducting an Annual Appeal along with our Capital Appeal is to highlight our need to better support our parish programs and ministries through our operating budget. More importantly, an Annual Appeal will cut into our parish budget shortfalls. Note that the recent Feasibility Study revealed that MQPP families contribute on average, .8% of their household's income to our parish. Catholics in the U.S. give 1% to 1.2% of household income.

Q: What am I asked to do right now?

Start praying now. Please ask God for guidance regarding your



present level of commitment.

- Read the campaign newsletters and other available information.
- Speak with fellow parishioners and your family about our plans.
- Attend one of the campaign informational meetings.
- Complete and turn in your commitment card on or before Commitment Weekend.
- Continue to pray for the campaign and for our parish so that it is guided by the Holy Spirit.



What's Happening on S. 27th Street?

Mary Queen of Peace Parish, with approximately \$150,000 of capital campaign funds, is now preparing



the land for construction of our new parish buildings.

This work includes additional civil sitework (concrete, asphalt & storm sewer), landscaping sitework (planting, sod, seed & irrigation) and working with the electric company to bury property alley-way electric power lines, installing lift poles, and transferring existing services and transformers.



"Mary Queen of Peace Parish is a family... even visitors get a sense of that when they come to worship."

Michael Helgeson, Parish Council



Mary Queen of Peace Parish
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Billings, MT 59101

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Updates on our
"new church"
enclosed!



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What's going on with our new church construction?

What's going on with the upcoming Capital Campaign?

What's going on with our parish financial picture?

After each Mass on April 1&2, Campaign leadership will address these and your questions in a short 30-minute meeting in the parish church.

Annual Appeal supports our current community
Capital Appeal supports our emerging community

"MQPP's focus has been on helping those in need, and struggling to do so against big odds. It is the perseverance of its parishioners and the profound belief in the mission of MQPP being of God's direct calling that has gotten the Parish through tough times. Struggle usually brings disparate people together and makes the bonds between everyone stronger, and there are strong bonds in this parish that go back for many decades - which is a testament of doing tough work to serve God for many decades."

Ric Heldt- Finance Council/Building Commission